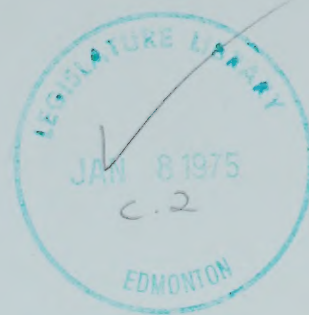
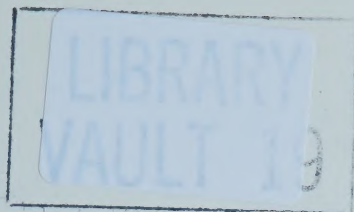


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ANNUAL REPORT

1974

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ALBERTA HANSARD



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ALBERTA HANSARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1974

Standing Order 24a of Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta was amended by the following resolution on March 15, 1973:

Moved by Honourable Mr. Hyndman: Seconded by Honourable Mr. Miniely:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Rule 24a of Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be amended as follows:

1. Subrule (1) is amended by striking out the words "the sittings" and by substituting therefor the words "each sitting day".
2. Subrule (2) is amended by striking out the word "is" and by substituting therefor the word "are".
3. Subrule (6) is amended by striking out clause (c) and by substituting the following therefor:
 - (c) "The Queen's Printer, the Provincial Librarian, the Provincial Archivist, the Law Clerk of the Assembly, the Ombudsman, the Provincial Auditor, the Public Service Commissioner, and libraries and news media approved by the Speaker shall each receive one copy."
4. Subrule (7) is amended by striking out clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d) and by substituting the following therefor:
 - "(a) Daily -- \$15.00 per annum
 - (b) Sessionally -- \$10.00 per annum
 - (c) Individual copies of a daily issue -- 25 cents per copy
 - (d) Bound volumes of a full Session -- \$15.00 per set
 - (e) The following may each receive a copy at costs set out in clauses (a) and (b) subject to a discount amounting to 50 per cent:
 - (i) A Provincial university
 - (ii) A public college in Alberta
 - (iii) A Provincial Institute of Technology
 - (iv) A Board of Trustees of a School District or Division under The School Act

- (v) A School Committee of a County
 - (vi) A private school as defined in The Department of Education Act."
5. The following subrule is added immediately after subrule (8):
 "(9) Copies of Members' speeches or portions thereof may be obtained, at cost of reprinting, by Members upon written request addressed to the Clerk."
 6. Subrule (9) is renumbered "(10)".

GENERAL

Minor difficulties in distribution of Hansard copies were dispersed by the above noted amendment to Standing Order 24a.

An issue of Hansard was published on time for each of 82 sitting days, including March 25 and 26, when the Members, with the exception of the supper break, remained assembled for a period amounting to eleven hours. The publication system currently applied, whereby debates of an evening sitting are printed together with debates of the following afternoon sitting, is dictated by overnight printing time requirements and appears to be necessary for the foreseeable future.

EQUIPMENT

The sound recording, tape recording, tape playback and computer terminal equipment remains as described in the 1972 Annual Report. A few minor refinements were applied where these were deemed appropriate and inexpensive, for example: a better quality recording tape and some attention to renewal of carbon ribbon at data centre terminals for improving density of final Hansard print-out. Editors were equipped with a separate recording instrument, hooked on line with the Assembly sound system, to provide a check of the printed record with an additional audio speech record. Continuous vigilant maintenance

by personnel of both Alberta Government Telephones and the Government Data Centre aided materially to reduce breakdown time and to minimize breaks when these occurred.

STAFFING

During the year under review a consolidation of supervisory responsibilities placed all Hansard production operations under supervision of a single senior Editor. Circulation control and subscription organization were retained at the Clerk's office. Recruitment of staff was handled by the Government Personnel Office, Temporary Services Division, and candidates subsequently screened by the Hansard Editor before final placement. Training periods, prior to sittings, were designed for new employees during which they were paid at approximately three-quarters the going rate for their respective positions. At October and December sittings, employees engaged for evening shift work were provided with a modest guaranteed pay amount to insure their availability whenever the Assembly decided to convene an evening sitting.

Recruitment and retention of experienced, capable staff is still hampered by the uncertainty of the times and dates of sittings of the Assembly. Qualified personnel, who take pride in their work and who are therefore preferred employees often may not thrive in this job environment. It would seem reasonable therefore to consider some form of reasonable year-round rate of pay for a core-group of employees that would combine a full salary and a retainer fee at a mutually satisfactory level. It should be noted however that, in spite of the difficulties presented by intermittent employment, all staff applied themselves with a high degree of diligence and integrity.

PRINTING

University of Alberta Printing Services were retained throughout the Session to produce Hansard from computer print-outs. A trial issue (April 13, 1973) undertook a photo-type-setting experiment by interfacing computer magnetic tape with paper tape equipment at the University to provide a more sophisticated type-face. The job was completed over a week-end and indicated rather convincingly that a two-stage interface procedure could not be fitted to an overnight production of a daily Hansard. What is apparently required is a single step interface between a programmed magnetic tape and the printer's typesetting machinery. The Speaker's office held several discussions during the year with printers who expressed an interest in providing such a service. However it is expensive and the relatively small volume of work contained in Hansard production does not encourage the industry to make the necessary capital investment.

The Session occupied 82 sitting days. There were 84 separate issues of Hansard printed; the two additional issues were for separated evening sittings, April 12 and May 10, 1973.

DISTRIBUTION

One thousand copies of each daily Hansard were printed and distributed as follows:

Subscribers @ \$15.00 and \$7.50 per Session --	490
Stored for binding	-- 200
Free list and over-counter individual	
sales @ \$.25	-- 310

Demand for single copies varies greatly from day to day. For one or two issues the Clerk's supply is exhausted, but for some issues a residue supply of up to 50 copies is retained in storage.

University of Alberta Printing Services were retained throughout the session to produce Hansard from computer print-out. A first issue (April 12, 1973) underwent a photo-type-setting experiment by interlaced computer magnetic tape with paper tape equipment at the University to provide a more sophisticated type-face. The job was completed over a week-end and indicated that continuingly that a two-stage inter-face procedure could not be fitted to an overnight production of a daily Hansard. What is apparently reported is a single step interface between a programmed magnetic tape and the printer's typesetting machinery. The Speaker's office held several discussions during the year with printer who expressed an interest in providing such a service, however, it is expensive and the printer's equipment is not modern enough to make the Hansard production cost-effective.

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DISTRIBUTION

One thousand copies of each daily Hansard were printed and distributed as follows:

Subscribers @ \$15.00 and \$7.50 per session -- \$30

Free list and over-counter individual

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Demand for single copies varies greatly from day to day. For one or two issues the Clerk's supply is exhausted, but for

Subscribers are served by third-class mail and there has been some complaint of delay in post-office delivery at that rate of postage. Consideration should be given to the possibility of paying a higher postage rate to get more prompt delivery to subscribers.

FINANCING

The escalating cost of Hansard production continues to be disturbing.

Total expenditure for the fiscal year 1973-74 will likely be about \$170,000. Since this is expected to cover 99 sitting days (82 in the 1973 Session and 17 in March 1974), the cost per sitting day exceeds \$1700. The 1972 Hansard report estimated costs at \$1350 to \$1400 per sitting day.

Expenditures are divided approximately as follows:

Staffing	, --	63 per cent
Printing	--	23 per cent
Equipment and sundries	--	14 per cent

Revenue from subscriptions and over-counter sales amounted to \$6,376.

In view of the rising costs, a questionnaire to other Provincial Hansards was sent out and comparative data from returns is set out below.

Saskatchewan

A Hansard is issued at the end of each Session instead of daily and therefore renders comparison difficult. Total cost for 1973 Session was \$28,748 to provide 400 copies. Length of Session was 72 sitting days. Therefore the cost per sitting day per copy is about \$1.00.

British Columbia

Hansard staff work for Committees of the Legislature between sittings; the estimated amount of time is the equivalent to 60 sitting days. Total expenditure for 1973-74 fiscal year is estimated at \$253,500 to provide 2000 copies which reach a final print stage within four days of the date of debate. Length of Session was 100 sitting days to which must be added the 60 "committee" days. Therefore the cost per sitting day per copy is about 70 cents.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia issues a regular daily Hansard which reaches final print stage about two days after date of debate. Total net cost for the 1972-73 fiscal year was \$57,500 for 400 copies covering 67 sitting days. Therefore the cost per sitting day per copy amounts to \$2.14.

Ontario

Ontario produces a daily Hansard with a production delay of about two days. Total expenditure during the 1973-74 fiscal year is estimated at \$690,000 for 3000 copies covering 121 sitting days. Therefore cost per sitting day per copy amounts to \$1.90.

S U M M A R Y

	Annual Expenditure	Number of Copies	Number of Sitting Days	Unit Cost
Alberta	\$ 170,000	1000	99	\$ 1.70
Ontario	\$ 690,000	3000	121	\$ 1.90
B. C.	\$ 253,500	2000	100	\$.70
Saskatchewan	\$ 28,748	400	72	\$ 1.00
Nova Scotia	\$ 57,500	400	67	\$ 2.14

Note: The Alberta Legislature is the only one among these that provides a printed Hansard on the day after debate.

Acknowledgement and appreciation are hereby tendered to Hansard Editor Elizabeth A. Bishop and her staff for an extraordinary job, often accomplished under considerable pressure and impediment. The vigilance and willing services offered by technicians of Alberta Government Telephones and the Alberta Government Data Centre are gratefully acknowledged. The University of Alberta Printing Services shops completed every task assigned to them under contract in a prompt and efficient manner. The willing and unrelenting effort of these people is largely responsible for the continuing daily appearance of Alberta Hansard.

